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THE "Blue Zone" being the region of Lille and Douai.

Under the system the five destruction companies had to supply to the special organization for permission to commence work in any plant, the organization retaining 5 per cent commission on the gross value, as well as 22 marks 50 pfennigs a ton on the iron destroyed and 15 pfennigs for each meter of destroyed material. This was done in order to reimburse itself for the labor supplied to the destruction companies, consisting of prisoners of war.

The companies were required to pay within thirty days the sale price agreed upon with the special organization, according to the latter's valuation of the plant involved. Machinery and material were first removed from the plants and shipped to Germany, especially all boilers, rolling stock, electrical apparatus, and also copper and materials of a similar character.

On December 31, 1917, the five firms mentioned had made profits aggregating about 1,500,000 marks, according to the Belgian estimate. On April 28, 1918, the same firms had returned to Germany for the German quartermasters' department 11,424,306 tons of iron and 207,242,000 square meters of other material, such as wood, glass, zinc and tin. They had also returned for the account of German firms 21,293,827 tons of iron and steel and 3,700,000 square meters of other material.

The men engaged in the work were: German engineers, 65; French and Belgian civilians, 12; Belgian soldiers, 85; war prisoners, 1,259. The salaries paid were: Engineers, 50 marks daily; foremen, 35 marks; carpenters, 35 marks; ordinary workmen, 25 marks.

## WILSON TO FIND MUCH WORK DONE

German Bluff on Ships and Food Called.

A Staff Correspondent of THE SUN. Copyright, 1919, by the Associated Press.

PARIS, March 9.—With a decision taken to call the German bluff about not delivering ships until guarantees had been given about food the Big Ten starts tomorrow to mobilize business in preparation for President Wilson's return.

As soon as the President reaches Paris he will find many matters ready for a decision and the Big Ten expects to have a record of achievement in the next two weeks greater than all previous sessions.

The opinion is advanced in some quarters that because such great progress has been made and the need of action has become clearer than ever the plan of writing two peace treaties should be abandoned. These hold that instead of a preliminary and final treaty the terms should be incorporated in a single treaty, as the latter will now be ready, it is argued, in the time that it would require to get the former in shape for signature.

This is perhaps too optimistic, but Foreign Minister Pichon said to-day that some important results might be expected as soon as all the committees appointed previously to Wilson's departure come in with their reports. These will have finished their labors soon, it is said; all reports are to be ready with a fortnight.

Meanwhile the German question comes up to-morrow.

## LOYD GEORGE, in his anti-conscription plan, has not yet gone very far into details, but it is clear that the American military commission has expert advice that the British plan would coincide with American interests. This commission holds that with some enlargement of our coast defenses and our submarine fleet we would be secure with a volunteer army even if the terms of peace make no provision for a League of Nations strong enough to give the hope of preventing wars.

The men of the American Expeditionary Forces are solidly against further American participation in European engagements.

## BELGIUM ASKS FIRST CLAIM ON GERMANY

Bill for Reparation Between 7 and 8 Billions.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, March 9.—All the Allied nations have presented their bills for indemnities to the Reparation Commission, except France. That of France will not be ready for another week.

The amounts demanded by the various nations for Germany cannot yet be made public, the commission reserving to itself the right to give out the figures. It can be stated, however, that Belgium's demands total between 25,000,000,000 francs and 40,000,000,000 francs (\$37,000,000,000 and \$50,000,000,000); 20,000,000,000 francs for actual physical war destruction and the remainder for thefts, unpaid for requisitions, seizures and the like. This is the largest figure set by any belligerent with the exception of France.

There is one thing, however, of greater immediate importance and absolutely vital to Belgium than presenting its indemnity bill," said one of the Belgian delegates to the commission this afternoon. "That question is priority for Belgium's claim on the first installment paid by Germany. If this cannot be guaranteed then the installment loan must be made to Belgium immediately. Otherwise the present stagnation will continue, and Belgium's economic situation will be crippled and helpless for long years to come."

This delegate placed the figure of Belgium's immediate need at a credit of 10,000,000,000 francs (\$12,000,000,000). He pointed to the clause in the "Allied Powers' guarantees to Belgium," entered into at Havre March 14, 1916, which reads:

"The allied and guaranteeing Powers declare that when the time comes the Belgian Government will be called upon to participate in the negotiations of peace and that they shall not refuse to end to hostilities before Belgium is reestablished in its independence, economic and political, and is largely indemnified for the damages she has suffered. They will lend Belgium their aid to insure the restoration of Belgium's commercial and financial standing."

This paragraph, the Belgian delegate is unanimous in interpreting as meaning that the Allied Powers would come to the financial rescue of Belgium with a loan or by offering her credits.

## PLANS WORLD'S PARLIAMENT.

Bern Conference Would Have It Elected by Voters Directly.

By the Associated Press.

BERN, March 9.—The formation of an international legislative parliament was proposed to-day by a committee of the International Conference of League of Nations Societies in session here.

The parliament should be elected directly by the voters of all countries in order, it was explained, "to secure a democratic constitution for a League of Nations."

## SEATTLE SHIP STRIKE OFF.

Forty Thousand Workers Will Return to Work.

By the Associated Press.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 9.—The strike of 40,000 shipyard workers in effect since January 21 in Seattle, Tacoma and Aberdeen was formally declared off to-night by strike leaders, following a canvass of votes cast in a referendum taken during the last three days.

The men are to return to work Tuesday morning under working conditions and wages prevailing when the strike was called.

## CROWDER DEFENDS ANSELL'S CHARGES

Had Only Difference of Opinion About Power of Review of Army Sentences.

NEW INQUIRY IS ORDERED

War Time Death Penalties Not Executed and Others Are Being Revised.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Differences between Major-Gen. Enoch H. Crowder, Judge Advocate General, and Brig.-Gen. Samuel T. Ansell, former acting Judge Advocate General, were explained and the ordering of a thorough investigation by the Inspector-General of the army into the military justice during the war was disclosed in a letter from Gen. Crowder to Secretary Baker, made public to-day at the War Department.

Accompanying Gen. Crowder's letter was one from Mr. Baker asking the Judge Advocate General to make a statement as to the operation of military justice. The Secretary wrote that his own acquaintance with the facts convinced him that the conditions implied recent complaints "do not exist and had not existed," but that it was "essential that the families of all those young men who had a place in our magnificent army should be reassured."

In reply Gen. Crowder made a general defense against recent criticisms in Congress and elsewhere concerning court-martial cases and charged that public to-day at the War Department.

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## BRITAIN OPPOSES BIG CONSCRIPT ARMY

Churchill's Proposal to Call Up a Million Men Bitterly Attacked.

WANT END TO MILITARISM

Proposal Styled a Blow at Liberties and an Affront to Workers.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, March 9.—The House of Commons today rejected a proposal by Mr. Churchill to call up a million men for military service, a move which was bitterly attacked by the opposition.

The proposal was styled a blow at liberties and an affront to workers. The opposition argued that the measure would be a step towards a conscript army, which they opposed.

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## GERMANY MUST GIVE SHIPS, SAYS COUNCIL

Cannot Escape Conditions in Treves Armistice.

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## LIVING COSTS FIRST WILL BE REDUCED

Organization of Industrial Board Completed and Plans Announced.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Completion of the personnel of the Industrial Board of the Department of Commerce, together with the plans of the board for hastening the return of prices and wages to a normal level was announced to-day through the Council of National Defense.

Associated with George N. Peek of Moline, Ill., a former member of the War Industries Board, as chairman of the new organization, are Samuel P. Bush of Columbus, Ohio; Anthony Cammetti, Commissioner of Immigration; Thomas K. Glenn of Atlanta, Ga.; George B. James of Memphis, Tenn.; T. C. Powell of Cincinnati and William M. Ritter of West Virginia.

The chief purpose of the new board, it was announced, is to bring about the operation of the laws of supply and demand, interfered with by the process of war. To this end conferences will be held with representatives of the various industries to decide on prices to be offered to the nation as the governmentally approved judgment on a price scale low enough to encourage production and the resumption of normal activities.

As soon as a stable and wholesome scale of prices is achieved, said the announcement, "the cost of living will be brought down to a level which will automatically reduce the price of labor without interfering with American standards and ideals for the treatment of living conditions of labor, and thus the last inflationary effect will have been withdrawn from prices."

It is believed that industry will agree that the cost of living must be substantially reduced before labor should be asked to accept lower wages, and thus industry should stand the first shock of readjustment.

Basic commodities, such as steel, building materials, textiles and food, will be considered first and brought to a stable basis. The governmental policy, as expressed by the new board, is to phase by the Government of wheat at the guaranteed price and resale of it at the world price, to assist in bringing prices of basic commodities to normality by bringing down the cost of living. It is hoped that these steps alone will automatically operate to reduce the prices of fabricated articles. If the board does so in any particular case the industry affected will be invited to conference.

The assurance to the country of a market stabilized at the lowest reasonable level, according to the board, is a flood of buying for the recreation of stocks, the making up of arrears in the building programme, the feeding of needs long starved by economy and the invasion of war-torn markets may be anticipated in this country. From the stable level thus reached by comparison, we may expect healthy and complete and unhampered operation of the law of supply and demand.

In reply to the objection that a general reduction in selling prices would hurt the war industry and commerce to take loss on products purchased at war prices, the board's announcement said the losses under the proposed plan would be made up by the Government, which would be required to wait a natural readjustment with its consequent long period of stagnation.

The normal operation of the law of supply and demand, said the statement, "cannot cure what it did not cause, first because it cannot operate until buying begins, and second, because buying cannot begin until the market is more normal, stable and homogeneous market."

CHICAGO HAS NEW DISEASE. Man Dies From Ailment Like "Sleeping Sickness."

CHICAGO, March 9.—Commissioner of Health John Dill Robertson announced to-day that the first report of death attributed to a lethal disease never before reported to-day. He has issued instructions to all physicians requiring them to report all cases of the disease with their observations on its character.

The Commissioner said the disease resembles, but most certainly is not, the sleeping sickness of Africa. The first reported to-day was that of a man 30 years old. A case reported in Evanston is that of a young woman who has been in a state of coma for thirteen days.

## GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC FAILS.

Named as Receiver.

By the Associated Press.

OTTAWA, March 9.—John J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways, has been appointed receiver of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. It was announced to-night.

The appointment of Mr. Reid as receiver by the railway that it is unable to continue operations after March 10 because of lack of funds, and consequently an order in council was adopted appointing the Minister of Railways receiver. His control extends over the entire system, including branch lines, telegraph, steamships, hotel and subsidiary development organizations.

## THEATRES AID JEWISH FUND.

Canvassers in Last Week Will Enter Movies Also.

By the Associated Press.

Canvassers for the Jewish War Relief Fund in Brooklyn will lead into the moving picture and theatrical houses this week by special arrangement. It was announced yesterday. Several large checks were received yesterday, among them \$5,000 from Elias Reiss, a Manhattan merchant living in Kedarhurst, and \$1,000 each from J. M. Levy and Samuel Rotenberg. Max N. Koven, Rubel Bros. and Munkes & Berlin contributed \$500 each. If the fund now enters the last week of the campaign, Directors will meet to-night to speed up the drive.

Among other contributions were the following: Bernard Stolzberg, \$200; Sylvan Levy and Ben B. Englander, \$200; Philip Levison, \$200; L. Robinson, \$175; S. S. S. \$150; J. S. S. \$150; Mrs. Sylvia Levy, L. Schechter, Hyman Aaron, Aaron Wisniewski, Isaac Lazarus, Sisterhood Temple Israel, A. Bernstein and Max Brodsky, \$100 each.

## ENRIGHT DEMOTES LAST OF LOFT SQUAD

New Force of 19 Detectives Now Seeking Robbers.

By the Associated Press.

Another demotion and transfer was announced last night at Police Headquarters, which eliminated from the building on Centre street the last member of the old loft and safe squad. This was Thomas E. Dowling, who was retransferred to the 10th Precinct. Enright from first grade detective to a rank of patrolman, which pays \$1,650. He was sent to the Rapey street station.